

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

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SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation on a Contract with the Aquatic Science Center for Technical Services
(For Commission consideration on January 15, 2015)

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the Aquatic Science Center for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to provide technical services for the Policies for a Rising Bay Project. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, so long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes in the amount or duration of the agreement, or the services provided.

Staff Report

In the fall of 2014, BCDC initiated the Policies for a Rising Bay Project to examine how its Bay fill laws and policies can be applied to projects that improve shoreline resilience to sea level rise. On December 4, 2014, the Commission unanimously authorized a contract enabling BCDC to hire a facilitator for steering committee meetings.

Shoreline adaptation projects will involve different green, grey, or some combination of green and grey infrastructure, and many of these strategies will involve Bay fill. The Commission will need to apply its fill policies to these projects to ensure its policy objectives are met along the shoreline, taking into account the different opportunities and constraints around the region. Staff recommends that the Commission authorize a contract with the Aquatic Science Center (ASC) to provide technical services to better understand which adaptation strategies would be most suitable and effective along different shoreline types.

There are two components of these services. First, ASC will assist BCDC staff to conduct in-depth analysis of shoreline geography and land use to develop shoreline typologies or planning units. This involves leveraging ASC's separately funded shoreline characterization work, such as the Flood Infrastructure Mapping and Communication and Flood Control 2.0 Projects, as well as other synthesizing pilot projects and regional efforts, including the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Climate Change Update. Second, BCDC, with ASC assistance, will organize a technical

workshop to review the shoreline typologies and assess what types of adaptation strategies may be most successful for identified shoreline types and some of the trade-offs between potential strategies. The outcome of this workshop will be a high-level matrix of the expected applicability of various adaptation strategies along the different shoreline types, a critical tool needed in the Bay Area.¹

This shoreline analysis is a key component of the Policies for a Rising Bay Project because it lays the groundwork for selecting adaptation strategies to further evaluate as case studies beginning in the summer of 2015. Staff will integrate this analysis into the final guidance on the types of adaptation strategies allowable under existing BCDC laws and policies, as well as policy issues that may arise and require potential policy changes in the future. The workshop will also serve to jump-start conversations about adaptation beyond specific sites, and facilitate project decision-making for broader adaptation planning efforts. Technical members of the Policies for a Rising Bay Project steering committee in addition to other topical experts will participate in the workshop. Staff will share workshop outcomes with both the Commission's new working group on Bay fill and the entire Commission.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to contract with ASC for up to \$20,000 to provide technical services in support of the Policies for a Rising Bay Project.

¹ The New York City Planning Department recently developed such a tool in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. The tool has been used to inform city planning decisions as well as support regional agency resilience efforts. Available at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/pdf/sustainable_communities/urban_waterfront.pdf